

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23 FEB 2005		
Applicant's or agent's file reference 113545	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/AU2004/001846	International filing date (day/month/year) 23 December 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 31 December 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 A47K 7/00, 7/02, 3/00 A61H 7/00 E03C 1/22		
Applicant COOK, Murray, Norman		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer SARAVANAMUTHU PONNAMPALAM Telephone No. (02) 6283 2070
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001846

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001846

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-15	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-15	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-15	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

NOVELTY (N) and INVENTIVE STEP (IS)

A. The documents constituting the closest prior art are:

- (i) US 6405400 B
- (ii) US 2003/0204927 A
- (iii) DE 20114903 U

B. The subject matter of claim 1 differs from these prior art documents in that the brush assembly is adapted for mounting to a drain and is resiliently depressible into the housing in the inlet of the drain.

C. The distinguishing features of the invention will enhance feet cleaning means in confined quarters such as shower cubical.

D. Therefore the application satisfies the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2-3), concerning the novelty and inventive step of the independent claim 1.

E. The criteria concerning novelty and inventive step of claims 2-15 are satisfied because these claims are dependent on claim 1.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY (IA)

The invention defined in claims 1-15 satisfies the criterion set forth in PCT Article 33(4).